

IDAHO COMMUNITY TREES

News You
Can Use

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A NEWS BULLETIN FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF IDAHO, THE IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF LANDS—COMMUNITY FORESTRY PROGRAM AND THE IDAHO COMMUNITY FORESTRY ADVISORY COUNCIL

***Need an inexpensive way to add trees to your city?
See what they are doing in Post Falls.***

Coordinator's Column

Making Community Forestry Relevant in a Changing World

Ever since the Idaho Urban and Community Forestry Program began in the early 90's, the development of sustainable community forestry programs in Idaho cities has always been part of our mission. During that time we have worked hand in hand with cities and other partners such as the Idaho Transportation Department, Resource Conservation and Development Councils, the Idaho Association of Cities, the University of Idaho, green industry associations, master gardeners and many others to build a strong foundation for community forestry. Together, we have focused on developing the capacity – knowledge, staff and resources – to properly grow and manage this important resource. One good example of our success is the growth in the number of Idaho communities that have achieved Tree City USA designation – from just a few to more than 70.

Having established this strong base, it's time to take the next steps toward sustainability. There are many definitions of this term, but to me it means that the community forest resource is managed for its maximum potential and health, and that communities can sustain a level of management that will meet the resource needs, including adequate staff, knowledge, tools and funding.

But how do we get there, especially when we have to compete with so many other programs and issues? One way is to focus on those issues which are most important in our communities. Whether we like it or not, trees are generally not one of them. Those that are include the availability and conservation of water, warming temperatures, air quality, transportation, energy, and human health. Research has demonstrated the tremendous benefits trees provide to these issues, yet they are mostly absent in our stormwater management and air quality improvement plans, or as strategies for conserving water and energy, lowering temperatures or making our cities healthier. If trees were included and used as viable tools, we would be able to replace a lot of gray infrastructure with a lot more green – and because that costs less, it means more green in our own pockets. But

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Annette Duerock explains landscape modifications that save water and in some cases reduce maintenance costs at the Panhandle District Offices in Hayden. Looking on are Advisory Council Chairman Gene Gray of Payette and Council member Deborah Rudeen of American Falls. (Photo by James R. Fazio)

Advisory Council Visits Sandpoint and Hayden

Members of the Idaho Community Forestry Advisory Council visited two north Idaho communities as part of their bi-annual meeting in June. Both communities are Tree City USA's and both have in the past received grants for improving the management of their community trees.

At Sandpoint, the focus was on a newly-produced management plan and the need for a revised tree ordinance. Members of the council also observed some unauthorized 'pruning' of downtown trees, and the challenge of protecting the roots of street trees during sidewalk replacement. City council member Helen Newton and members of the tree board accompanied the advisory council and city officials on the tour.

In Hayden, the advisory council was hosted by Annette Duerock, environmental health specialist for the Panhandle Health District. Annette explained the many water conservation practices being demonstrated at the district's new office facility at 8500 N. Atlas Road. The goal of the landscaping is to retain as much water on site as possible and return it to the aquifer that serves as drinking water for thousands of Idaho and Washington residents. See page 2 for examples of the practices and think of how these might be adopted in your community.

Want a Back Issue?

Some readers collect issues of *Idaho Community Trees* for the Tree Tip on page 4 and other information that can be used for reference. If you are missing a back issue and would like one, please direct your request to the editor as listed in the masthead box below.

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Coordinator's Column cont.

to do this we need to start defining these benefits in the language of others. Stormwater engineers, for instance, need to know just how many gallons of water trees in specific areas can mitigate, what the design should look like and the cost/benefit of integrating trees as compared to how they currently manage stormwater. This means pushing ourselves beyond trees and promoting a multi-disciplinary approach to managing our communities, blending green with gray to maximize the value of both for the greatest return on investment. It changes community forestry from something that is nice, to an unquestionable necessity.

The Idaho Community Forestry Advisory Council has helped craft a new five-year plan for our program that sets the framework for moving in this direction. Our mission no longer focuses only on tree management, but instead on also improving the benefits listed above by maximizing the function of this critical asset in a very direct and measurable way – and in a way that will significantly increase the relevancy of community forests. Looking beyond the trees, we need to see that community forests contribute to a measurably healthier, more efficient and less expensive future.

-- David Stephenson
Community Forestry
Coordinator



Idaho Community Forestry Advisory Council members being briefed on techniques used to conserve and purify water at the new Panhandle Health District office building in Hayden. (Photo by James R. Fazio)

Water-Saving Landscaping Ideas

When in the Coeur d'Alene/Hayden area, you are invited to visit the grounds of the Panhandle Health District offices. Stop inside to obtain a leaflet that explains the many features being used to conserve water while at the same time beautifying the grounds and saving money. The innovative practices you can observe include:

- Swales with native and drought-resistant trees, shrubs, forbs and grass to hold run-off from roofs and pavement, screen pollutants, and provide aesthetics.
- A large, bottomless planter where roof water drains, watering decorative vegetation and then percolating into the ground.
- Permeable pavement material that allows water into the soil.
- Reduced use of curbing to encourage 'sheet flow' instead of concentrated flow of rain runoff.
- A 37,000 gallon rainwater cistern connected to the site's irrigation lines, including a below-grade drip system.
- Small, spread-out parking lots to reduce 'heat island' effects, facilitate water collection and natural pollution treatment, and enhance the feeling of open space.
- Small lawns with drought-resistant turf to reduce water and mowing needs.

The demonstration site is also being used for research to test the effectiveness of the various methods both for water conservation and the improvement of water quality.

Hats off to This Oregon Nursery!

According to the Associated Press, Salem, Oregon nurseryman John Miller not only saves trees from destruction, he pays the property owner in the process. Folks with small trees in the way of construction, or that are not wanted in the space they occupy, are encouraged to call Miller's Mahonia Nursery. Miller pays \$40 - \$50 per tree, transplants them to his nursery for a year of recovery, then puts them on the market to live another day in another place.

A Seattle-based nonprofit, PlantAmnesty, does much the same thing to prevent the waste of trees and shrubs and the ecoservices they provide. In this case, a property owner contacts the organization, describes the plant, and it is listed in the organization's monthly newsletter. Any interested party then contacts the owner, digs up the plant, smoothes over the site, and replants at a new location. There is no charge or payment involved.

Post Falls Tree Giveaway Helps Green-Up the City

The City of Post Falls and surrounding areas added 3,000 trees to their streets and yards -- and with no labor costs on the part of municipal crews. For the fourth year in a row, the Saturday 'Plant-a-Tree' project was a big success. The event was co-sponsored by the tri-city educational organization, Community Canopy, and the trees were purchased with donations from area businesses. Community Canopy sponsored workshops on how to plant trees and some 100 volunteers helped with logistics.

In an Associated Press story about the event, then city forester Linden Lampman was quoted saying the project is "making a difference in the community's urban forest." The story also quoted a number of happy tree recipients as they hauled off their "free" trees.

Green is Big Business

Idaho's 'green industry' is big business, according to a study by the University of Idaho's Social Science Research Unit. The study found that sales of garden and landscaping products and services come to over \$800 million annually, leading to the employment of some 14,400 workers during the peak of the season.

Calendar – Summer & Fall 2007

July 28 – August 1

International Society of Arboriculture Annual Conference & Trade Show, Honolulu, HI. (Contact: www.isa-arbor.com/conference/)

Sept 15-19

Society of Municipal Foresters Annual Conference, Hollywood, FL. (Contact SMA at (706) 769-7412 or www.urban-forestry.com)

Sept 16 – 19

Pacific Northwest Chapter of International Society of Arboriculture Annual Training Conference, Corvallis, OR (Contact www.pnwisa.org)

Nov 6

Hazard Trees Workshop, Salt Lake City, UT (Contact National Arbor Day Foundation at (402) 474-5655 or download registration brochure at www.arborday.org)

Nov 7

Trees, People, and the Law Seminars, Salt Lake City, UT (Contact the National Arbor Day Foundation. See above.)

Nov 8

Tree Care Industry Expo, Hartford, CT. (Contact TCIA.org and click on Meetings for details)

Nov 14-15

Partners in Community Forestry National Conference, Baltimore, MD (Contact National Arbor Day Foundation at (402) 474-5655 or download registration brochure at www.arborday.org)

Upcoming Certified Arborist, Municipal Arborist, Utility Arborist, and Certified Tree Worker Written Exams

Sept 29—Pocatello, ID

For information or to register, contact: Pacific Northwest Chapter, International Society of Arboriculture at 503/874-8263 or 217-355-9411 or email: info@pnwisa.org.

Note: Applications and exam fees must be submitted at least 12 days in advance of the exam.



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Tree tip



Call Before You Dig

A new, nationwide number has been created to make it easy to have underground utilities located and marked – free. Now, just do it! Call before digging a hole to plant a tree, dig out a stump, lay an irrigation line or do anything else that could cut a buried utility. Your call will be directed to the local one-call number and affected utility. All you have to do is dial 811 a few days before you dig.

- Avoid Disrupted Service
- Avoid Damage
- Avoid Possible Fines and Repair Costs